

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Biographic InformationSADAT, AnwarEGYPT

Anwar Sadat is Secretary General of the Islamic Conference, Editor of al-Gumhuriya, Vice President of the National Assembly, and Secretary General of Egypt's new "National Union." He has been one of the most outspoken critics of western "imperialism," and his editorials generally follow a strongly nationalist, sometimes left-wing, line. Bitterly anti-British, Sadat at one time (early in the revolutionary government) professed pro-American sentiments. A little later, however, he began expressing disappointment that the United States had not given immediate and material aid to the new government. By late 1955 he was writing vitriolic attacks against the United States. He has been described as the type of extreme nationalist who would ally himself with any force which he felt would assist Egypt to achieve its "national aspirations." Sadat himself has admitted that he is generally suspicious of United States motives in the Near East, although he did give a grudging approval of U.S. role in the cease fire of November 1956.

Sadat was considered one of the most influential officers in the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) shortly after the coup, and for a time he was official spokesman for the regime. However, his influence was on the ascendancy for sometime before he was dropped from the Cabinet in June 1956. It is said that Sadat was distrusted by his colleagues in the RCC because of his past record of extreme nationalism and intrigue.

Sadat was born in 1918, was educated in the Royal Military College, and commissioned in the infantry about 1938. He was dismissed and interned for Nazi contacts in 1942, imprisoned for complicity in an assassination in 1946, and re-entered the Egyptian Army as a Palace spy in 1951. However, he served the revolutionary group he was hired to spy on.

Sadat is reportedly sensitive about his negroid appearance. His present wife is half English; a former wife whom he divorced in 1949 has custody of their three daughters.

IRC:BI:VHMacLean:mh

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